

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9170

INFO AMCONSUL NICE

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E. O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: TWA SERVICE TO NICE

REF: PARIS 08210 AND PREVIOUS

1. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE INVITED CIVIL AIR ATTACHE TO
QUAI D'ORSAY AFTERNOON OF MARCH 28 TO CONFIRM STATEMENT
MADE MARCH 24 BY FRENCH AERONAUTICAL OFFICIALS TO
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATWOOD (STATE 078555,
PARA. 6) TO THE EFFECT THAT SINCE THE USG HAS NOT
GRANTED WASHINGTON-MEXICO BLIND SECTOR RIGHTS TO
FRANCE THE GOF WILL NOT EXTEND TWA'S BLIND SECTOR
AUTHORIZATION FOR GENEVA-NICE BEYOND MARCH 31. (TWA/
PARIS WAS ALSO FORMALLY TOLD THIS THE SAME MORNING
BY THE DGAC).

2. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH NOTE OF
FEBRUARY 24 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXPLICITLY
STATED THAT IT WOULD PERMIT CONTINUED TWA OPERATIONS
AFTER MARCH 31 ONLY IF AIR FRANCE RECEIVED ITS
AUTHORIZATION EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, AND THAT NO REPLY HAS
YET BEEN RECEIVED TO THAT NOTE. SHE SHOWED US CABLES
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FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WHICH REPORTED
ENCOURAGING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- IN-
CLUDING AN ASSURANCE THAT A REPLY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING
BY MARCH 7 OR 8. SINCE AIR FRANCE HAS NOT RECEIVED ITS
RIGHTS, AND THE GOF HAS NO FORMAL INDICATION THAT THE
USG INTENDS TO GRANT THEM BY APRIL 1, FRANCE, SHE
CONCLUDED, HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SUSPEND TWA'S

GENEVA-NICE OPERATIONS.

3. WE REMINDED HER OF THE INDICATION THAT THE USG WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO GRANTING WASHINGTON-MEXICO RIGHTS CONTAINED IN OUR COMMUNICATION TO HER REGARDING PAN AMERICAN'S CHANGE OF GAUGE PROBLEM (STATE 058320, PARA 2,C) BUT SHE WAS ADAMANT THAT SUCH AN ASSURANCE WAS INADEQUATE. EXACT RECIPROCITY, SHE CONTINUED, WAS VERY IMPORTANT IN FRENCH-US AVIATION RELATIONS AND THAT MEANT ONLY THAT ONE BLIND SECTOR MUST BE BALANCED BY ANOTHER AT THE SAME TIME. WE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO SECURE A DELAY IN THE CUT-OFF OF TWA'S RIGHTS (AND REFERRED TO THE CARRIERS' OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AS THESE HAD BEEN EXPLAINED TO US BY TWA PARIS), BUT SHE WOULD NOT BUDGE.

4. COMMENTS: IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO ASSURE TWA'S CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GENEVA-NICE SERVICES AFTER MARCH 31, WE SHOULD GIVE THE FRENCH A NOTE GRANTING THE WASHINGTON-MEXICO RIGHTS IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO.

HARTMAN

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